October 27, 1944

Copper Commando - vol. 3, no. 5

Victory Labor-Management Production Committees of Butte, Anaconda and Great Falls

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Copper Commando

Oct. 27, 1944

NAVY DAY

Vol. 3 No. 5

NAVY DAY IS OCTOBER 27

On Friday we pause to pay tribute to the men of the United States Navy, who comprise the greatest navy in all the world. For Friday is Navy Day, an occasion of greater importance this year than in any year of American history. Copper Commando is pleased to present to its readers this vigorous message from Rear Admiral C. H. Woodward, USN, Chief of the Incentive Division. It is a message all of us should heed as well as read.

THE year which has passed since the last observance of Navy Day has been marked by many successes of our sea-air forces, ably supported by the production forces here at home. Today, in paying traditional tribute to the achievements of the Navy, it is well for all Americans to give some thought to the tremendous task that still lies ahead for the fighting men and ships of the Fleet.

We must remember that even after the defeat of Germany we shall still have a major war to win in the Pacific—a war that has been and will continue to be largely a Naval war. No one needs to be reminded that the Jap is a tenacious, savage and unrelenting enemy. Or that we must fight this war at a grave disadvantage, with our supply lines extending over thousands of miles of water. There is no way to cover these vast distances with heavy cargo in bulk except by ships. Even with our spectacular record of ship construction, there are not enough vessels for all purposes.

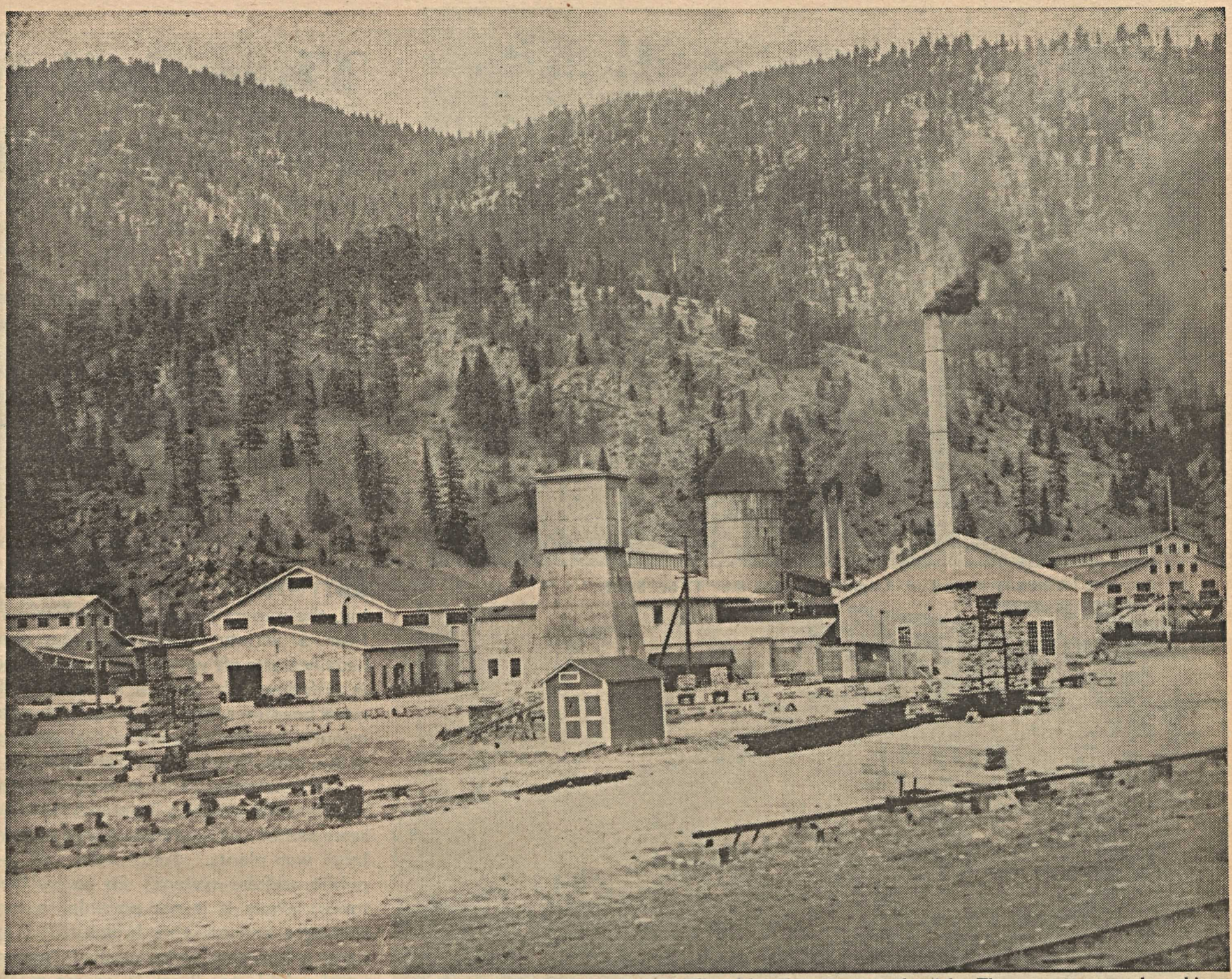
Nothing could be more dangerous at this time than too much optimism about the struggle with Japan. The war is not over; it is only well started. We are just approaching the inner circle of Japanese power with our invasions of such strongholds as Saipan, Guam, Tinian and Palau. As we move closer to the heart of Japan, we shall run into tougher and more compact defenses. The Japs will make us pay as dearly as possible for every foot of ground. They will fight desperately to prolong the conflict as long as they can.

In view of these patent facts, it is sheer illusion to believe—as too many Americans do—that our job in the Pacific will be over shortly after peace comes to Europe. We still have a long, bloody and costly war ahead of us.

The big test of the Navy is therefore yet to come. Huge as are our present operations in the Pacific, they will grow in magnitude as time goes on. To meet the requirements of this expanding war, the Navy's production program is still definitely on the increase. And despite certain readjustments necessitated by the changing demands of the war, it is expected to continue at an even higher level next year than at present.

Today the Navy is faced with shortages in several categories of production vital to success of planned operations. We urgently need more assault troops and cargo ships. We need huge quantities of bombardment ammunition, rocket equipment, 40 mm anti-aircraft guns, high octate gasoline, advance base gear and numerous special devices to ensure the decisive defeat of the Japanese aggressors.

For us to relax in our efforts now would be to play directly into the hands of our enemies. The Japs know that if we allow ourselves to fight the war against them half-heartedly, it may last twice as long. It is up to every man and woman producing vital war materials to stick to their jobs in the same way that we expect our fighting men to stick to their guns.



Here's a general view of the Plant at Bonner. The mill is to the left and the planing mill and box factory are to the right. The water tower and machine shop are in the general foreground.

COPPER COMMANDO

VOL. III, NO. 5

OCTOBER 27, 1944

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COPPER COMMANDO is the official newspaper of the Victory Labor-Management Production Committees of the Anaconda Copper Mining Company and its Union Representatives at Butte, Anaconda, Great Falls and East Helena, Montana. It is issued every two weeks . . . COPPER COMMANDO is headed by a joint committee from Labor and Management, its policies are shaped by both sides and are dictated by neither . . . COPPER COMMANDO was established at the recommendation of the War Department with the concurrence of the War Production Board. Its editors are Bob Newcomb and Marg Sammons; its safety editor is John L. Boardman; its chief photographer is Al Gusdorf; its staff photographer is Les Bishop . . . Its Editorial Board consists of: Denis McCarthy, CIO; John F. Bird, AFL; Ed Renouard, ACM, from Butte; Dan Byrne, CIO; Joe Marick, AFL; C. A. Lemmon, ACM, from Anaconda; Jack Clark, CIO; Herb Donaldson, AFL, and E. S. Bardwell, ACM, from Great Falls. . . . COPPER COMMANDO is mailed to the home of every employee of ACM in the four locations —if you are not receiving your copy, advise COPPER COMMANDO at 112 Hamilton Street, Butte, or better still, drop in and tell us. This is Vol. 3, No. 5.

ALLIED PRINTING TRADES UNION LABEL COUNCIL BUTTE, MONT.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Listeners at the Con. Amplifier is above the "T" in "Safety."

On the sheets at the Emma near the mine amplifier.

Miners catch up on the news before going underground.

They Call It TELETALK

•

Each morning the miners receive a local broadcast with music, news and a safety talk. We've gone behind the scenes to see how the program is arranged and we've gone out on the sheets to picture the men as they listen. We thought you'd like to find out how the job is done.

•

BETWEEN 7:45 and 8:05 every morning, the miners about to go underground hear a variety broadcast. The show usually starts off with some march music. It is followed by several minutes of the news headlines, and winds up with a few minutes' review of some actual accident or the explanation of a safety rule.

In commercial lingo, they call this broadcasting gadget a Teletalk. It is the same sort of machine to be found in many large war plants. Some folks call it a public address system. In several factories, where it is not possible to send messages around, this broadcasting apparatus has been very handy in getting word quickly to all employees no matter where they may be in the plant. The same sort of system is used today in many large department stores in cities like New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and others.

The broadcasting operation is directed from the Bureau of Safety. It consists of a central control board, which looks somewhat like a very small telephone switchboard, an amplifying unit with a phonograph recording device above it and a microphone.

The Teletalk system was set up in only a few of the mines at the beginning and development was slow because of the difficulty of obtaining material. However today, the Teletalk system is established at ten mines—the St. Lawrence, the Mountain View, the Badger, the Mountain Con, the Leonard, the Tramway, the Emma, the Anselmo, the Belmont and Steward.

The broadcast goes over regular telephone wires to amplifiers at the mines—each mine has its own amplifier and can be controlled at the mine itself. The loud speakers, as a rule, are set somewhere near the headframe.

The programs usually start off with the recorded music and then either John Boardman of the Bureau of Safety, or his assistant, Tom Driscoll, give the news headlines as they occur. The ambulance calls are given, following the news flashes,

News of the invasion was received with great interest. The newscasters attempted to review up-to-the-minute developments of the landing in France. Practically all these miners have relatives in the fighting forces of Uncle Sam.

Bureau of Safety head John Boardman delivers a safety message. At the right is Western Electric amplifier with recording phonograph on top. Many organizations throughout the country have radios and musical programs for their workers.

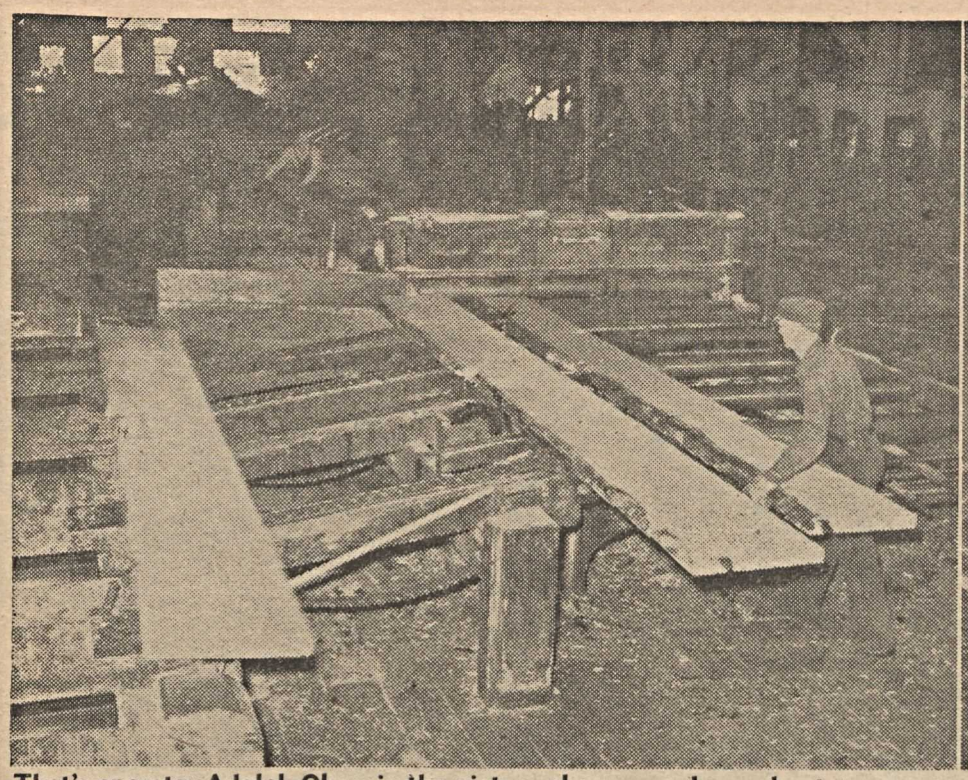
for the past twenty-four hours, to let the listeners know who may have been injured and where the men may be visited. A safety message normally follows the ambulance calls and lasts for roughly five minutes with a recital of a particular accident or a few reminders on safety rules. Sometimes first aid instruction is capsuled into the closing five minutes of the program.

Recently the Bureau of Safety took a poll of the reactions of the men to the program, giving them an opportunity to express their approval or disapproval and to suggest types of programs. The poll of opinion was still in progress as this was written, but on the basis of returns received this far more than ninety-four per cent were in favor of continuing the broadcast. Fifty per cent favored continuing the news headlines. Music, discussion of accident reports and safety rules, in the order named, were the most popular features.

Soldiers of production hear how the invasion forces are doing.

Here again Mt. Con miners catch up on the headlines.

IN many large war production plants, working at fever heat to keep the Armed Forces supplied with planes and tanks and ammunition, the loud speaker system is used to keep employees informed of what is going on. Some time ago the same system was installed in the Butte mines and each morning the flashes are carried over the wires to the men about to go underground. The fellows tell us they like the broadcasts.



That's operator Adolph Olson in the picture above at the left. This shows the left-hand side of the double edger. The boards have left the rollers and are about to move on from the edger to the trimmer. The second picture shows a rear view of the off-bearing table from the edger. The picture isn't too clear but that is, left to right, Alfred Morin and Charles Cantrell with Louis Henes. A great job is being done by these men.

LUMBER'S the Word

How are you enjoying your picture trip through Bonner, good readers? If you recall, in our last issue we picked up the logs as they were dropped into the log pond, followed them as they went up the dog chains to the saws and observed these lumber experts as they pared these giants of the forest down into commercial items of lumber. Now let's proceed to the next steps in these interesting operations.

WE leave now the thundering carriages which shuttle back and forth heaving their cargoes of logs against the band saw which slices them, like so much cold meat, into boards.

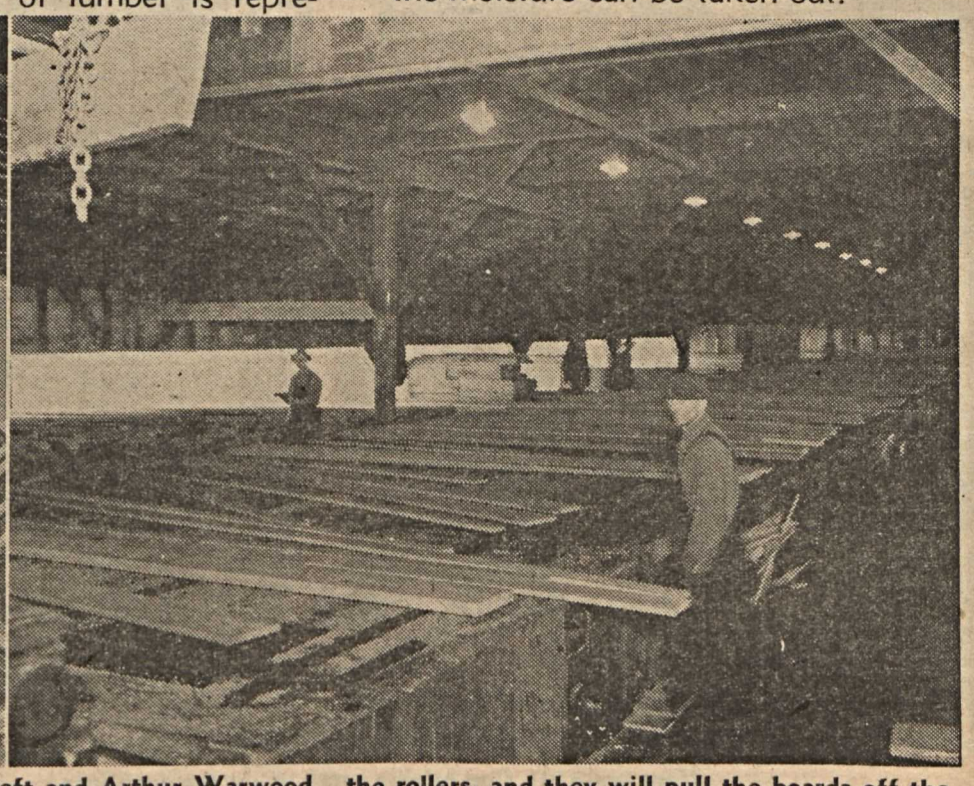
After the lumber leaves the band saw, it flops onto rollers which convey the selected lumber to the edger. The edger is another sawing device which trims the bark off and cuts the board into various required widths. The discards, after the selection is made of the lumber on the rollers from the bandsaws, and the trimmings from the edgers are dropped to the slasher saws table below. At the slasher saws table these discards are sawed into four-foot lengths and a selection is made for lath. After the selection has been made, the slabs and edgings are moved to the lath machines and the balance is conveyed to the hog to be used as feed for the boilers.

When the boards have been edged, they travel once again by roller to the trimmer. But that isn't all, because up to now, no one has sorted the boards out according to their quality. Therefore, after the board leaves the trimming machine it goes past the grader and he puts his grade mark on it. He can tell at a glance what grade of lumber is represented by the board in front of him and merely scratches on it with a piece of crayon.

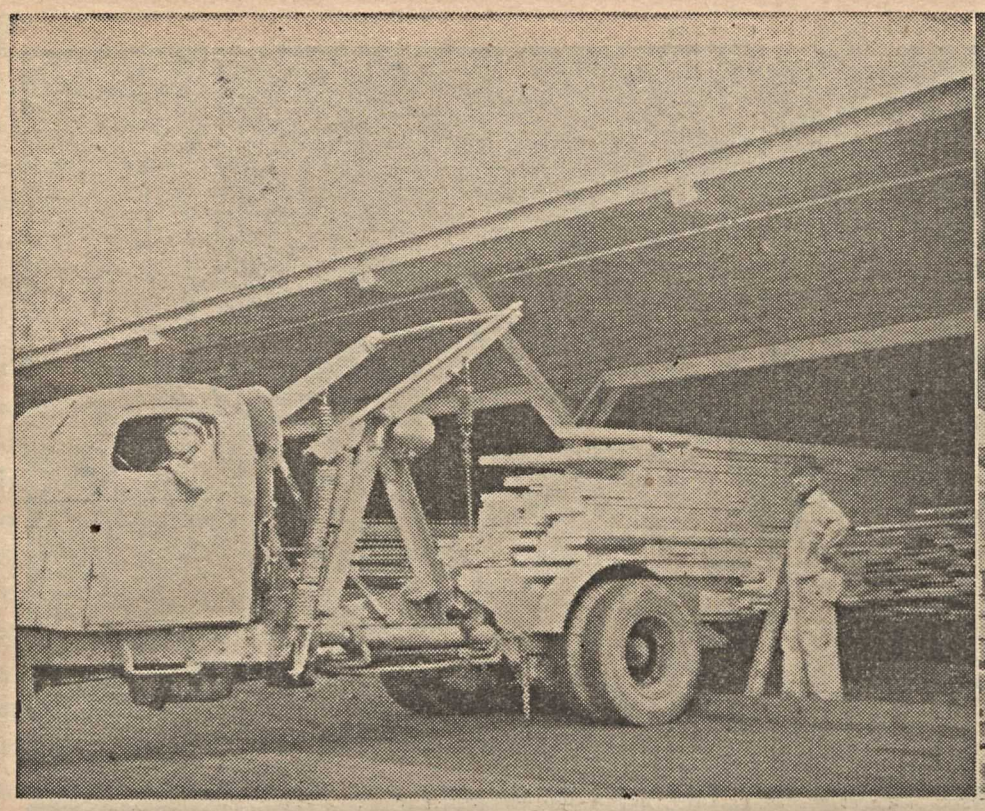
Down the chains the boards with their grade marks go. On either side of this long covered runway, sorters stand, pulling out the lumber and piling it according to grade marks. Each man keeps his eye peeled for a particular grade of lumber and when a board comes to him bearing his mark he hauls it off the chains and stocks it in a pile behind him.

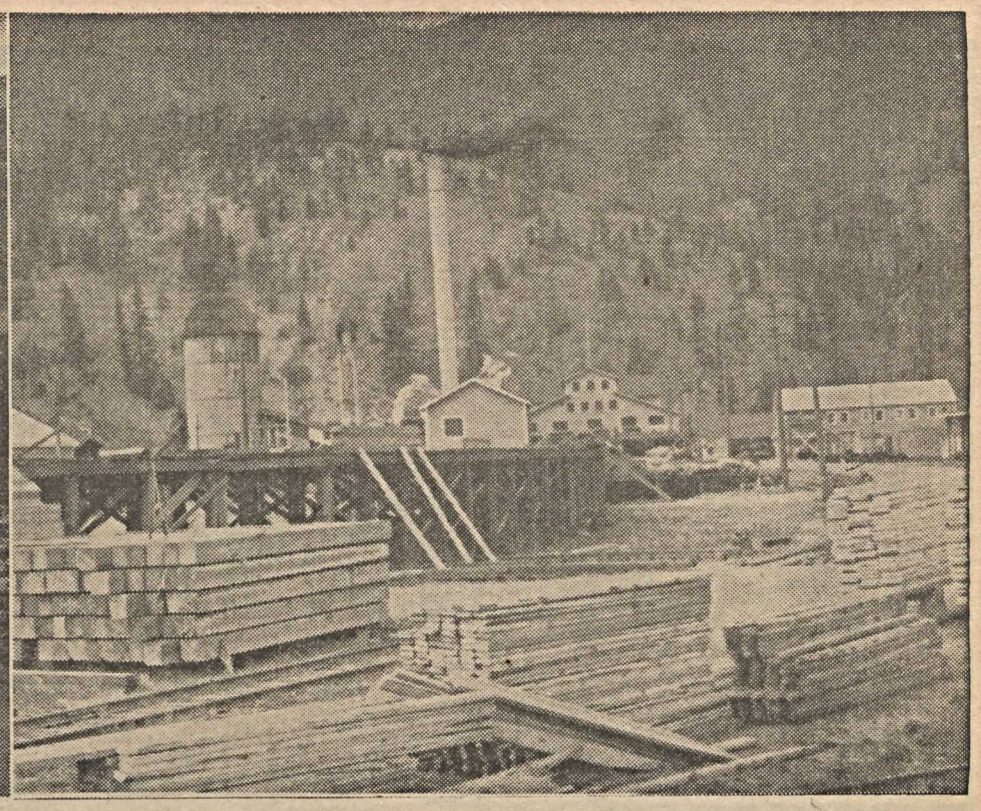
This big operation, which is devoted to the sorting of lumber after it has been graded, is called the sorting chain. When enough lumber has been piled up, a truck especially designed for handling large loads of lumber backs up to the pile and moves it onto the truck.

Timbers and lumber which are used in the mines are not customarily dried in what is known as the dry kilns. A dry kiln is used for the more finished grades of lumber for commercial use—the mine timbers are air dried in the yard until shipped for the most part. A dry kiln is something like a huge oven into which the piled lumber is moved and allowed to dry out thoroughly under artificial heat. Space is left between the boards so that all the moisture can be taken out.

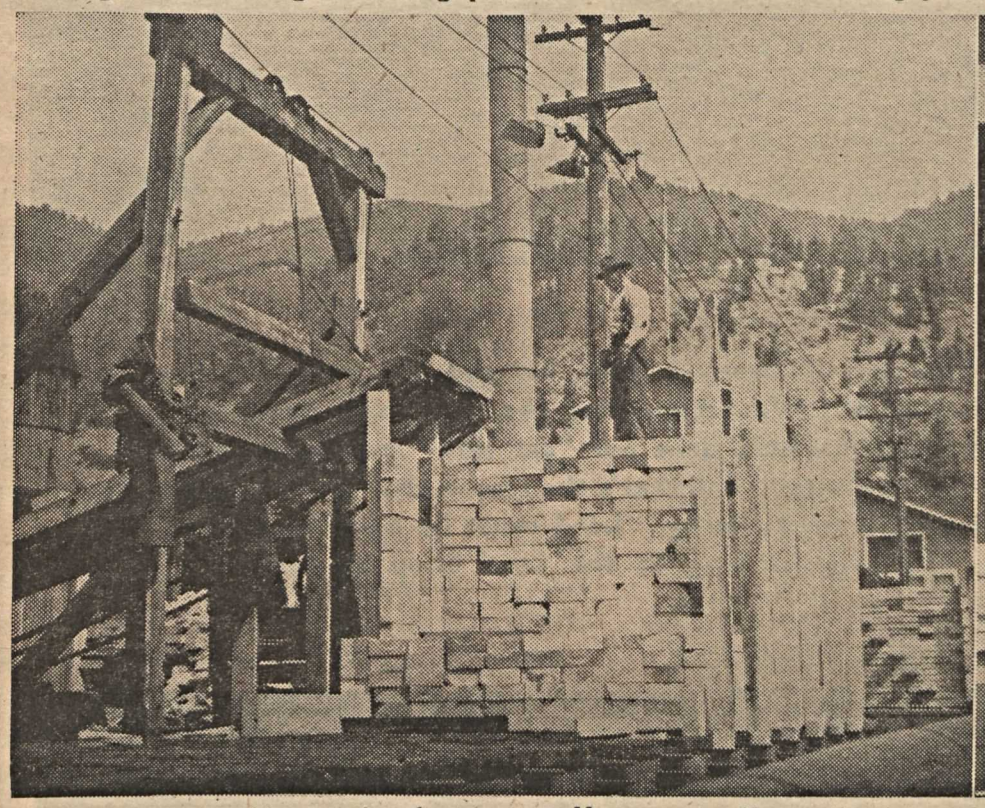


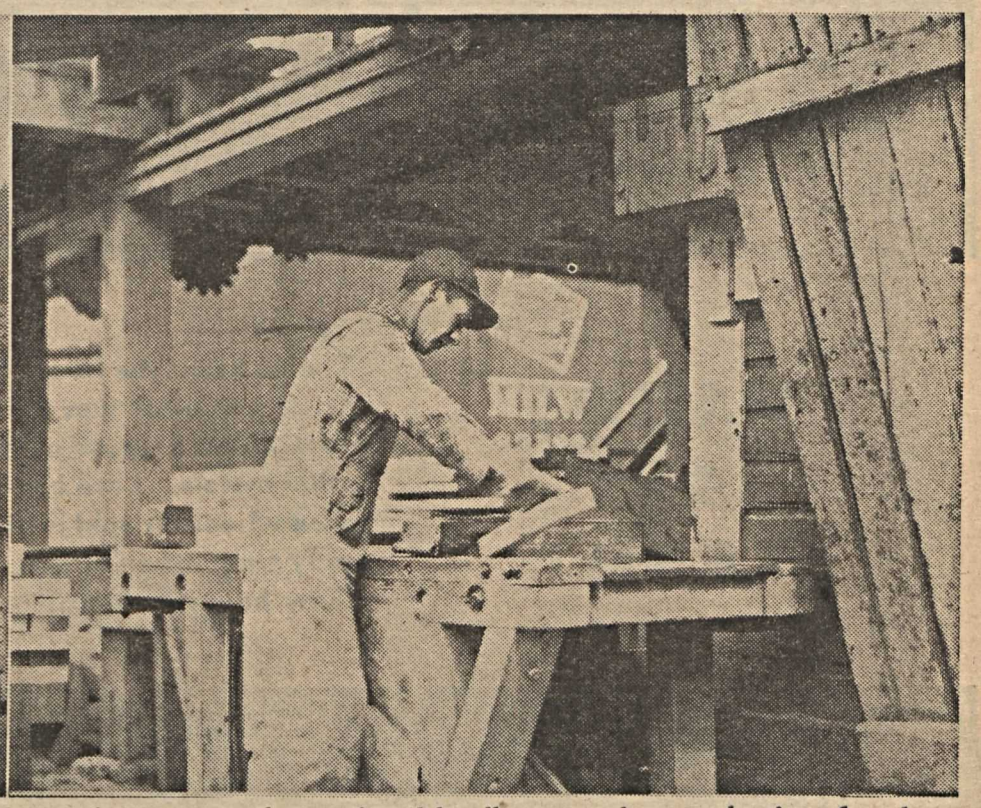
Here is the trimmer viewed from the top. John Flink is the trimmer man sitting at the controls. Over at the right is the sorting chain. That's Leslie Mallows at the left and Arthur Warwood at the right. These men are watching for their own grade mark as the boards come moving along the rollers, and they will pull the boards off the sorting chain and stack them in piles for the truck. This is really something to see.



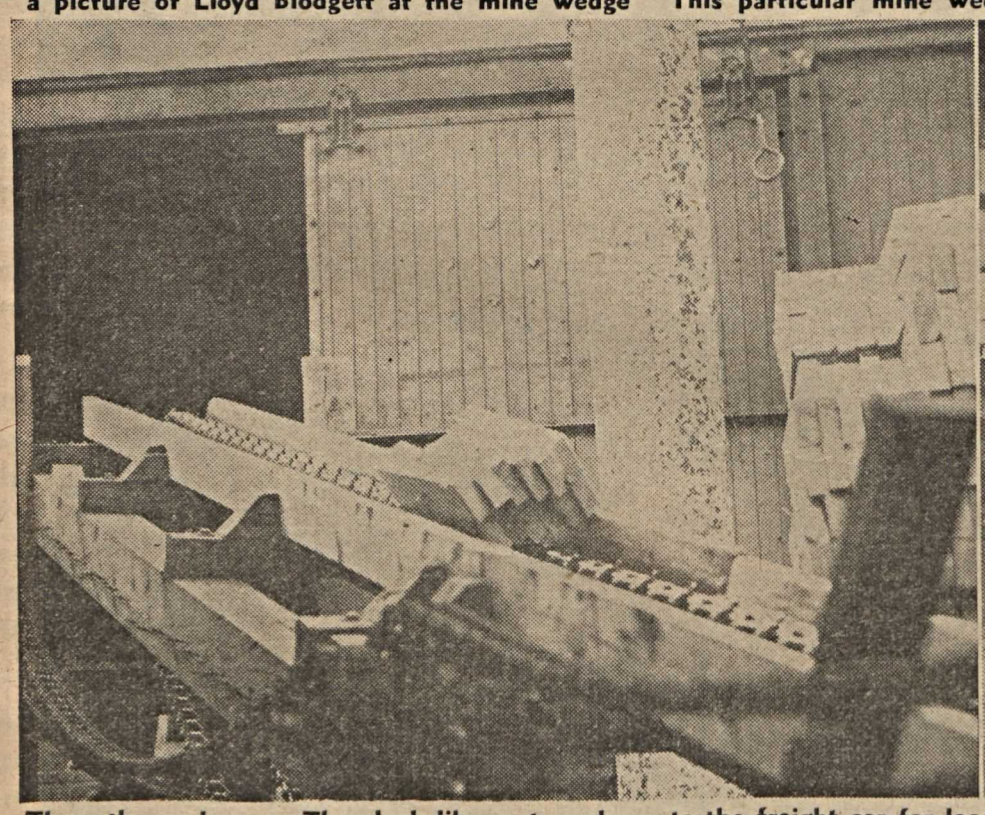


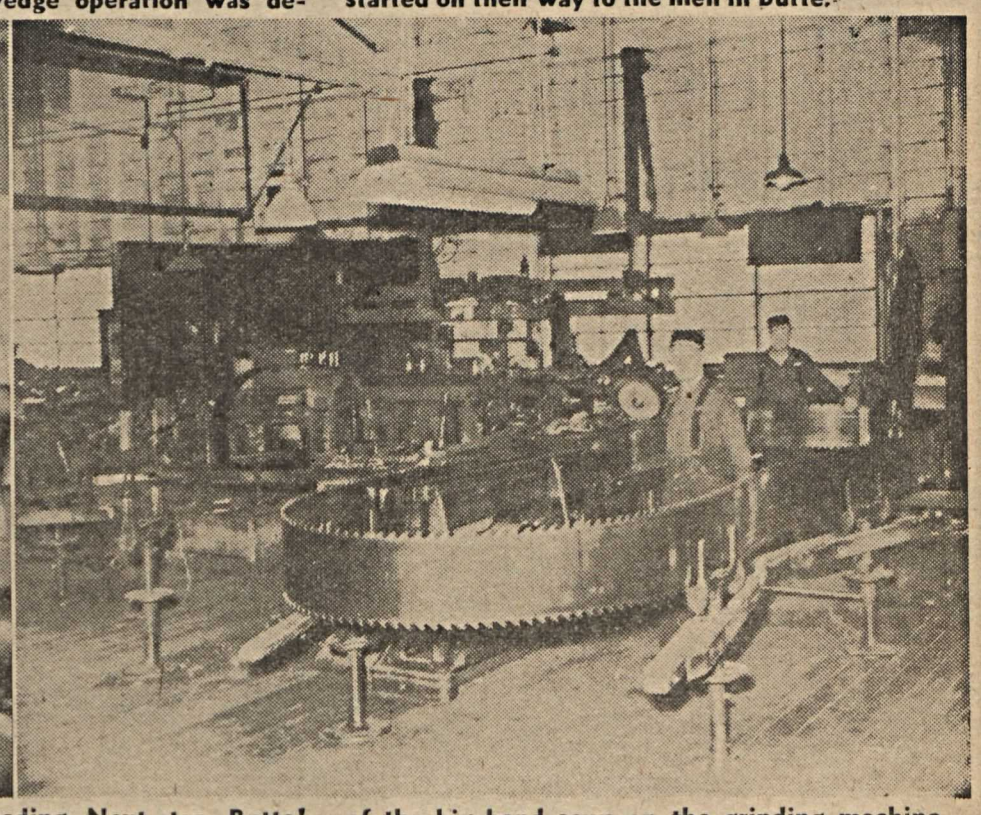
This is a great sight for the visitor. The lumber has been stacked from the sorting chain and is now ready to leave by truck. That is Alf Thorsheim in the cab; Bill Leibel stands at the right. This truck gets a firm grip on the bottom of the pile and inches the whole pile forward onto the truck. At the right is a general view of the mill which we thought you might like to see. That platform in the front is the overhead tram loading platform; in the left background, with the rounded top, is the burner in which sawdust and other waste material is disposed of. Some of the timbers for the Butte mines can be seen in the left foreground while other lumber to be air dried is at the right.



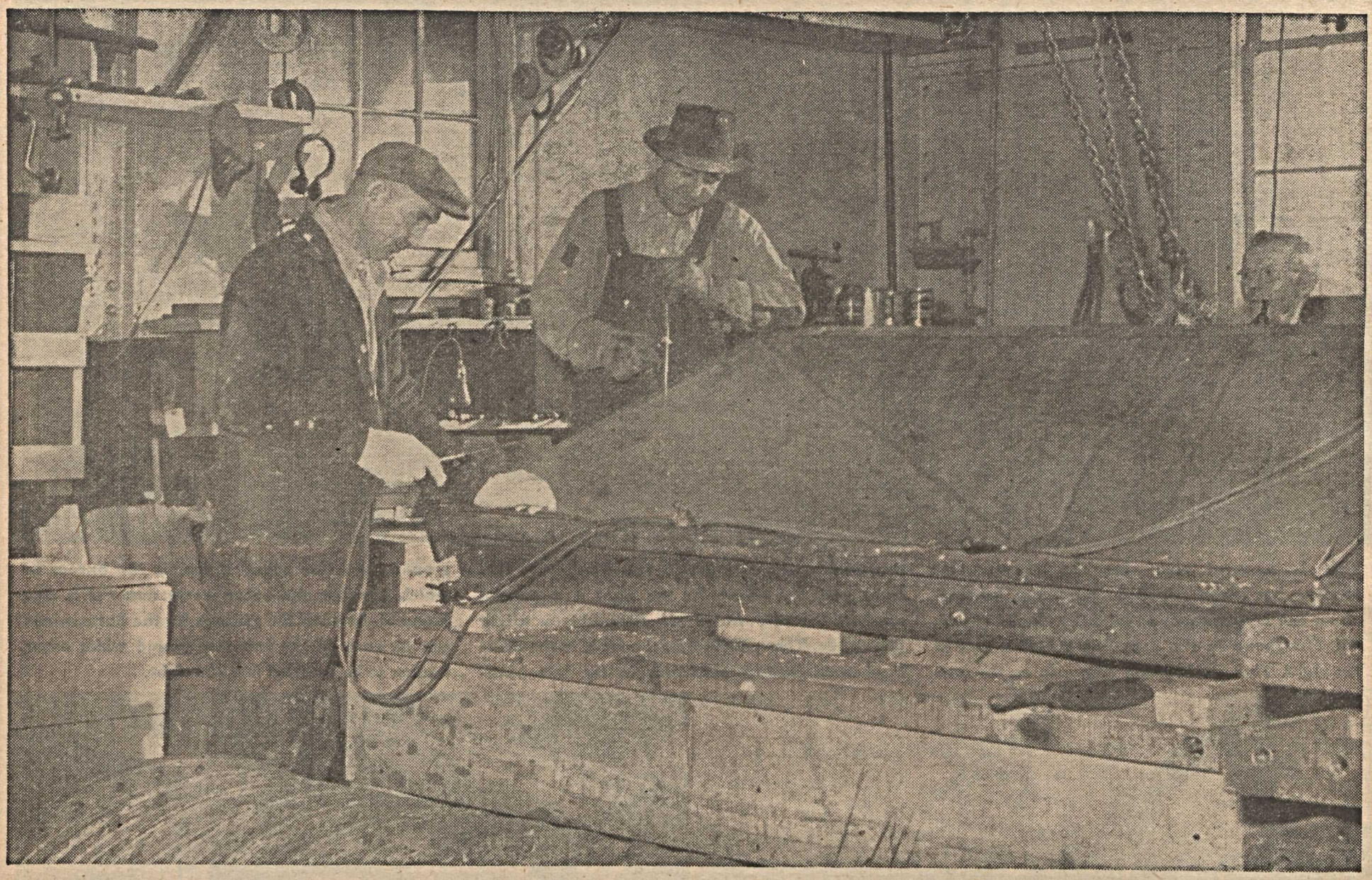


Butte miners should recognize these scenes. Here is a carload of 4x10—4'6" loading for the Butte mines. John Hendrickson is the loader standing on top of the pile. You often wondered probably where the mine wedges come from, so we took a picture of Lloyd Blodgett at the mine wedge cut-off saw. As these mine wedges are cut, they are dropped through a chute, wired and sent up a chain conveyor into a railroad car—you can see the car in the back of the picture. The requirements of the Butte mines come first at Bonner. This particular mine wedge operation was designed locally to speed up production of wedges for the miners. The wedges drop on a conveyor chain leading to the wedge machine room on the first floor of the mill building, where they are resawn and assembled in the wedge machine and started on their way to the men in Butte.



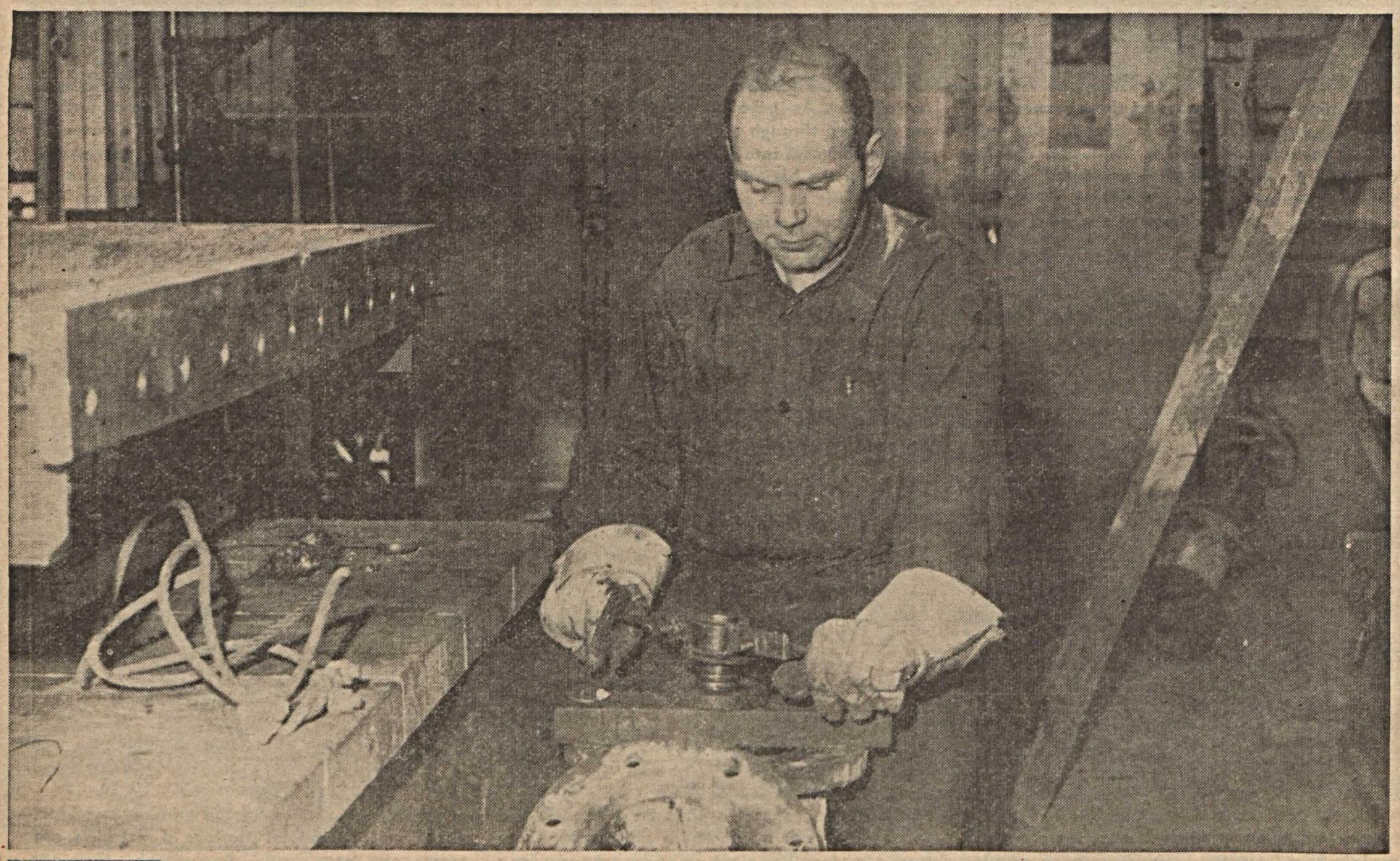


There the wedges go. They look like rectangular blocks but, as every miner knows, there are two wedges to each block. They have been counted and wired in the building just shown you and now they are on the conveyor chain being brought up to the freight car for loading. Next stop, Butte! . . . Some of our readers have asked what these huge saws look like close up, so we take you for a minute to the filing room where Albert Barta and Roy Ducheman, saw filers, are about to tackle one of the big band saws on the grinding machine. These saws, because of shortage of materials, are scarce and very costly. Accordingly, they are treated with the greatest of care. A saw breakdown would be a very serious thing.



HARD AS LEAD

You've heard the term "hard as lead" many a time, but did you ever stop to think just what was meant by it? We figure that the way that saying got started was because of the fact that acid does not "eat into" lead as it does other metals. Lead has more resistance and that's the reason that you'll find it used whenever acid is present in any quantity. Lead must be handled differently from other metals. The boys working in the Lead Shop at Anaconda show how it's done.



CORROSIVE solutions at the Smelter at Anaconda make it essential that there be a Lead Shop on the Hill to keep the various departments operating. Acids do not affect lead like they do other metals, hence lead fittings are used almost always when acids are present.

Lead must be handled differently from other metals because of certain qualities it possesses. If lead is ground, for instance, it gums up. For that reason there must be a grinding compound used to keep it lubricated at all times. In the lower opposite page picture George Wellcome is shown grinding a six-inch valve used on the acid lines. As you can see, it is hand-ground and in the inside of the valve, where the grinding is being done the grinding compound is to be found, keeping it well lubricated while George grinds it.

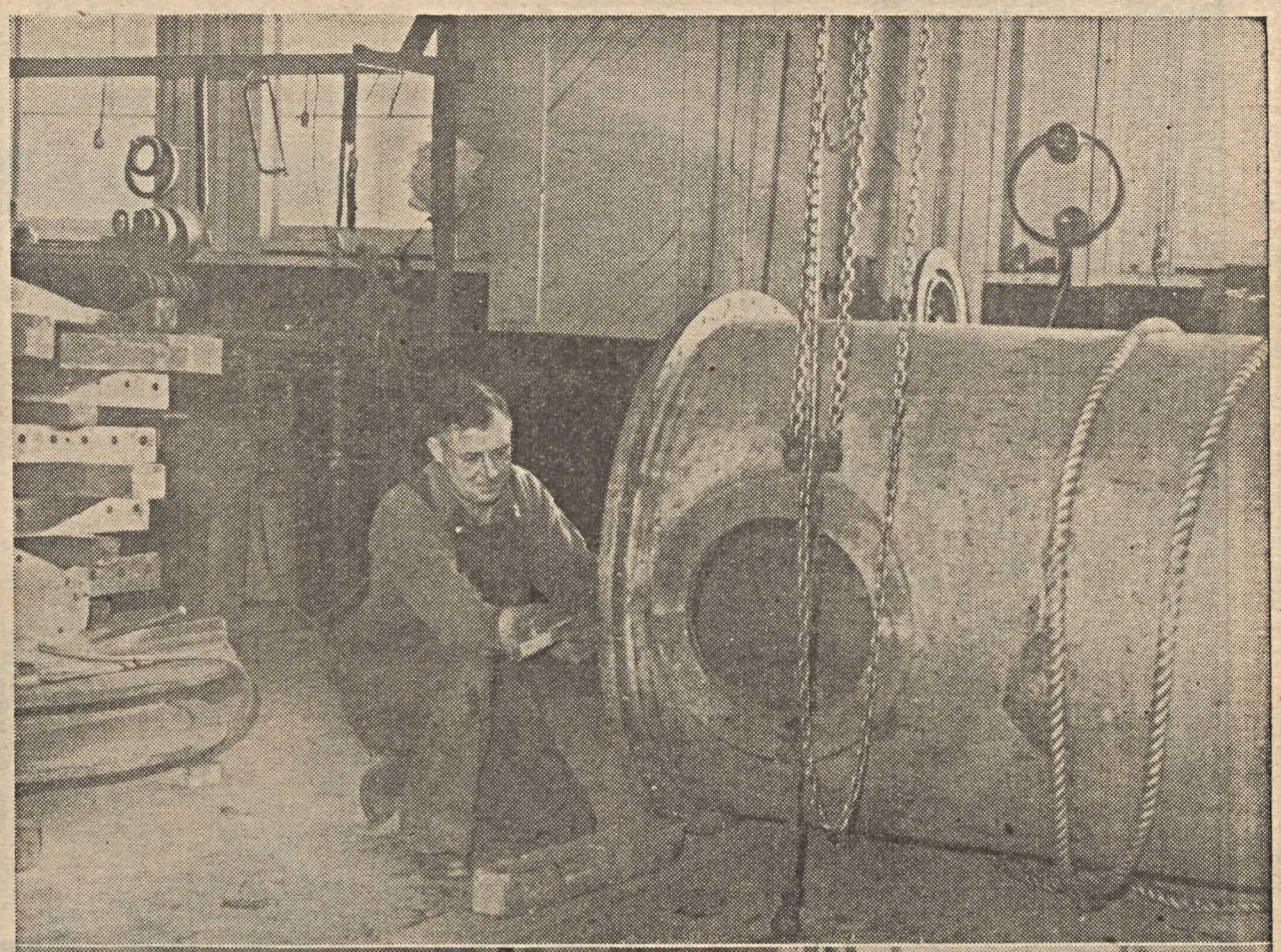
An evaporator plate from the Phosphate Plant had been brought in for repair and Pete Swedish, a lead burner, and Ray Perkins, a helper, are working on it in the top opposite page picture. In order to make the evaporator a solid plate, it's necessary every so often to bring it into the Shop and the boys fill the holes which appear from time to time. This plate is used for evaporating solution in the Phosphate Plant. That's John Derzay, smoking his pipe on the other side of the evaporator. John is a handyman and has been in the Shop since 1918, having come there two years previous to Pete, who came in 1920. Ray is relatively new. He joined the gang in 1943.

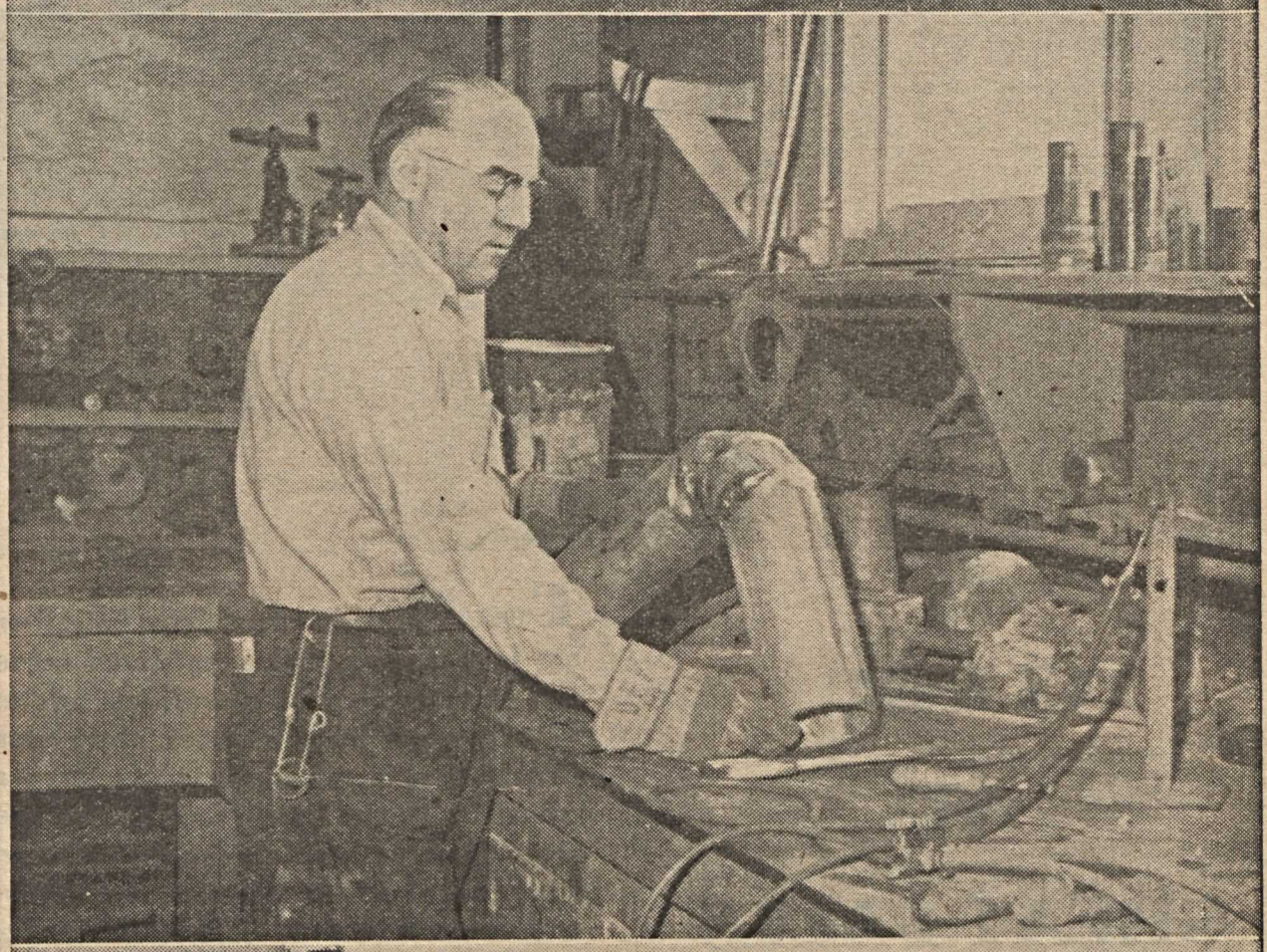
That's Tom O'Brien in the top picture measuring the inside diameter of the catch-all. This casting weighs 6,700 pounds and is used at the Phosphate Plant. The baffle-plate fits inside through the center and is used to keep the acid from going over the top. As it is, the acid hits the baffle-plate and goes down instead of over the top and thus eliminates waste.

A four-inch lead elbow used on an acid line at the Phosphate Plant had been brought in for lead burning. Soldering is not used because the acid eats it out. Lead burning is done with an oxygen acetylene flame. Burning lead bars are used in lead burning to make a seam. These lead bars are from one-quarter to three-eighths inch in diameter. That's Walter Krimner who has been in the Shop since 1924, working on the elbow in the center picture.

Joe Schmidt, superintendent of the Lead Shop, shown in the bottom picture, has been in the Shop for the last twenty-eight years and there's not a lot about lead that Joe can't tell you. Joe Chavrack, foreman, was out on a job when we were there, but later he told us enough to convince us that he knows the business.

Around seventy jobs a month are turned out by the seven lead burners, two apprentices, one handy man and six helpers employed at the Lead Shop in Anaconda.





CLINIC AT GREAT FALLS

Talk to any of the folks at the Reduction Works at Great Falls and you'll hear about the fine job the doctors and nurses do at the clinic. The clinic is a familiar spot to the employees—and not only to the employees but to their families as well, for the families are included in the contract.

TODAY at the clinic at Great Falls there are four doctors, three registered nurses and the secretary. Up until last winter, when we got these pictures, there were five doctors, but Dr. Francis Waniata was called by Uncle Sam. Each doctor sees around thirty patients a day during his office hours of eleven to twelve, two to four, and seven to eight. The clinic is open every night except Sunday. Then, of course, there are the calls and surgical work at the hospitals—both the Columbus and Deaconess are used. The doctors are always on the job between nine and eleven at the hospitals and sometimes you'll find them at the hospitals much earlier. In addition to the office calls and hospital work, there are many home calls to be made. But with around sixteen hundred employees and their families to be cared for, there's bound to be sickness. In a single year there will be from two hundred fifty to three hundred new babies registered at the clinic.

Let's look in on these doctors and nurses who do such an outstanding job in Great Falls. James Harris Irwin, M. D., shown to the left in the upper opposite page picture, signed a contract forty-one years ago to help take care of the employees at the Reduction Works. Dr. Irwin graduated from Rush Medical College in 1899 and came to Great Falls in 1903 from Havre, Montana. He can tell some mighty interesting stories about his experiences during the horse and buggy days. At that time all confinement cases were cared for in the homes. Today, modern hospitals are used. He'll tell you that with X-ray, radium and modern medicine many changes have taken place and great developments have been brought about in medical science in the past forty-one years. Dr. Irwin had a break in his years of service for smeltermen's families, for he served in World War No. 1 from June, 1917, to August, 1919, and while in London he took advantage of it and attended post-graduate courses for four months. He is a member of the American Medical Association, a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons since 1914, and a Fellow of International College of Surgeons.

Charles F. Little, M. D., shown with Dr. Irwin, graduated from the Creighton Medical School, Omaha, Nebraska, in 1921. During his post-graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania—and since in practice—he has specialized in internal medicine. He came to Great Falls to practice in 1933 and in 1935 became a member of the clinic medical staff. He is a member of the American Medical Association and a Fellow of the American College of Physicians.

James C. MacGregor, M. D., to the left in the center picture with Clara Dahl,

and Dr. Bertram E. Lord, joined the Medical Staff at the clinic in 1917. Dr. MacGregor graduated from the University of Iowa Medical School in 1906. After practicing medicine in West Branch, Iowa, for eleven years, he was called into the Federal Service as Commanding Officer of Troupe D, First Iowa Cavalry, and was stationed on the Mexican border for one year. He is a Fellow of the International College of Surgeons and serves as Governor for the states of Montana and Idaho for that body.

Bertram E. Lord, M. D., graduated from Hamline University in 1903 and after fourteen years' practice in North Dakota came to Montana in 1917 and two years later joined the Medical Staff of the clinic. He was appointed First Lieutenant in World War I. Dr. Lord is a member of the American Medical Association.

Clara Dahl, shown with Drs. MacGregor and Lord, needs no introduction. Most everybody is well acquainted with her and the fine work she has done for the last eighteen years. In addition to conducting her baby clinic and work in the office, she makes visits to the homes of the employees either at the request of the Medical Staff or the worker.

That's Dr. Francis K. Waniata with registered nurse, Nettie Ogrin, in the bottom picture. He graduated from Northwestern Medical School in 1934. After a year at the Miles City Garberson Clinic, he moved to Great Falls in 1936 and joined the clinic in March, 1943. He volunteered to serve with the United States Army and was commissioned as a First Lieutenant. Before his enlistment, Dr. Waniata became a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Lesley Hatcher, shown in the picture with the doctors and nurses, is secretary and receptionist at the clinic. Her face is a familiar one to the folks at Great Falls. Mrs. Crena Flynn, a registered nurse, who works at the clinic, was off duty the day we visited.

They do fine work—these doctors and nurses at the clinic at Great Falls.

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On October 2, the President launched a National Community War Fund campaign in a nation-wide effort to secure sufficient funds from the American people to serve great humitarian needs on three fronts—the military front covering services to our armed forces largely through the USO, United Seaman's Service and War Prisoners' Aid; the home front supported by Community United Nations front, and the American Chests.

Labor, management and community throughout Montana are pulling together in their efforts to contribute to this great cause. The money does not go indirectly to aid our boys and our allies—it goes right straight to the places where it will do the most good. Contribute now!

The Navy turned out at the Hall.

Fred Harvey gives us a big smile.

Plenty of jitter-bugging at the Slavonic Hall.

Some of the dancers at the Union.

ON the principle that all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, the Entertainment Committee and the Sports Committee of the Butte Miners' Union have launched dances for the winter. To catch the miners and the miners' families at play, Copper Commando covered the two recent dances of the respective committees. The Entertainment Committee holds its dances on Sunday night at the Butte Miners' Union Hall. The Sports Committee holds its affairs also on Sunday nights at the Narodni Dom Hall in East Butte.

Here at the left, we find several shots taken at the Miners' Union Hall at a recent dance. The picture at the top was also taken there.

In the pictures in the right panel and at the bottom, we take you to East Butte where the Sports Committee holds its dances. This committee recently launched a fox trot contest over a series of Sunday evenings—the finals are due to be held shortly.

The Entertainment Committee consists of Tom Albright, chairman, and Lincoln Vaughn, secretary, and the following members: Ed Maguire, Tony Petroneo, Pat Freel, Claudio Rodriguez, James Shea, Louis Blasich, John Larson and Tom Strike.

The Sports Committee is headed by Mike Orlich, chairman, with Billy Pickthall as secretary. The remainder of the committee is composed of Tony St. Peter, Nick Hubber, Mike Koppa, Nick Fabatz, Sam Orlich and Marty McGuinn. Anne Fisher, president of the Skating Club, is an honorary member of the committee.

Members of the Butte Miners' Union and their families evince a lively interest in these dances. The proceeds go to worthy causes sponsored by the union.

The fox trot contest attracted much interest.

The Miners' Union was a busy place.

Some of the girls sit it out.

Men in uniform were a common sight.

The Sports Committee is in the first row.

Several miners were among the crowd.

Johnny Jose held forth at Narodni Dom.

Some of the revelers stop and pose.